



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59718

November 28, 2001

**TO:** Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office	Parks Division	Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division	Lands Section	Design & Construction Bureau
Legal Unit	FWP Commissioners	Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202  
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103  
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 West Main, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771  
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624  
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923  
Glenn Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Bob Raney, 212 So. 6<sup>th</sup>, Livingston, MT 59047  
Skyline Sportsmen's Association, P.O. Box 173, Butte, MT 59701  
Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711  
Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Association, P.O. Box 663, Whitehall, MT 59759  
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association, 1721 Virginia Dale Street, Helena, MT 59601  
Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941  
Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725  
John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624  
William Fairhurst, Public Lands Access Association, P.O. Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752  
Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, MT 59701  
Ponderosa Pines Ranch, 12452 Clarkston Road, Three Forks, MT 59752  
Terry Wubben, 6010 Pearl Drive, Amsterdam, MT 59741

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your interest in Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed Improvement Project for the Fairweather Fishing Access Site located on the Missouri River, 16 miles north of Three Forks. The project

proposes realigning and building 2500 feet of new access road, building a parking lot and cul-de-sac; constructing a hard surface boat ramp; erecting signs; installing a sealed vault latrine; and reclaiming the old road and site. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared on the project, and it analyzed three additional alternatives as well as the preferred action.

A legal notice was placed in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, the Independent Record, The Three Forks Herald and the Townsend Star newspapers for the review of the Draft Environmental Assessment. It was sent to a distribution list and was put on the State of Montana Electronic Bulletin Board for review. There was a 30-day comment period, which ended October 29, 2001. No comments were received.

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the process has satisfactorily complied with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The proposed action poses no significant impact to the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The decision has been made to proceed with the preferred action alternative as described in the EA. Any comments may be made to Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Cherry River FAS Improvements, 1400 South 19<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman, MT 59718, or email [tgreason@montana.edu](mailto:tgreason@montana.edu). This decision adopts the Draft Environmental Assessment as the final document.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Flowers  
Regional Supervisor

## DECISION NOTICE

### FAIRWEATHER FISHING ACCESS SITE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region Three  
1400 South 19th Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

November 28, 2001

#### **PROPOSAL**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to relocate the boat ramp and parking area at the Fairweather Fishing Access Site (FAS) along the Missouri River at Clarkston, Montana. The project would include building approximately 2500 feet of new road on a different alignment to the river; building a cul-de-sac and small parking area, constructing a hard surface boat ramp, installing a concrete latrine, and erecting new signs. The capital improvements are estimated to cost approximately \$75,000.00, and will be funded by the Boat-In-Lieu motorboat facility improvement program.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS**

The public comment period began September 28, 2001 and ran through October 29, 2001. Legal notices were published twice in four different newspapers; there was one statewide news release and one posting on The State of Montana's electronic bulletin board; and documents were distributed to 35 separate individuals, groups and agencies. There were no comments received.

#### **DECISION**

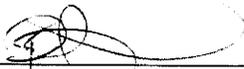
Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I have determined that the process satisfactorily complied with the Montana Environment Policy Act (MEPA). The proposed action will not create any significant impacts to the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to implement the proposed action (preferred alternative), and to proceed with the improvements to this site. Construction will begin in the spring of 2002. By notice of this decision, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA without modifications or additions.

Questions regarding this decision notice may be directed to me at (406) 994-4042 or to [pflowers@montana.edu](mailto:pflowers@montana.edu).

*Gallatin County*

The final EA and decision notice may be viewed or obtained on request from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, at the Region Three Headquarters, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman or from the State Electronic Bulletin Board.



---

Patrick J. Flowers  
Regional Supervisor